

**In the Claims:**

1    1.    (Currently Amended) A method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a  
2    cellular system, the method comprising:

3                 storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit prior to a first  
4    registration attempt, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and a  
5    plurality of secondary home agents;

6                 attempting the first registration with the primary home agent;

7                 failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

8                 the subscriber unit selecting a secondary home agent from the plurality of secondary home  
9    agents in an attempt to balance load among the plurality of secondary home agents; and

10                attempting registration with the secondary home agent.

1    2.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprises:

2                 the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a  
3    first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent.

1    3.    (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2                 attempting registration with the first secondary home agent;

3                 failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

4                 attempting registration with the second secondary home agent.

1    4.    (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering  
2    the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second  
3    secondary home agent comprises:

4                 the subscriber unit generating a random number; and

5                 the subscriber unit using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary  
6    home agents.

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1       5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering  
2       the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second  
3       secondary home agent comprises:

4              the subscriber unit determining a current date; and

5              the subscriber unit using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home  
6       agents.

1       6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering  
2       the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second  
3       secondary home agent comprises:

4              the subscriber unit determining a current time; and

5              the subscriber unit using the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home  
6       agents.

1       7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents  
2       stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the  
3       subscriber unit to its subscriber.

1       8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents  
2       stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access.

1       9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for  
2       the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over  
3       the air access.

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1    10. (Currently Amended) A method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a  
2    cellular system, the method comprising:

3                storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit prior to a first  
4    registration attempt, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and a  
5    plurality of secondary home agents;

6                attempting the first registration with the primary home agent;

7                failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;

8                the subscriber unit rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a  
9    first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent in an attempt to balance load  
10   among the plurality of secondary home agents; and

11                attempting registration with the first secondary home agent.

1    11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2                failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and

3                attempting registration with the second secondary home agent

1    12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering  
2    the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second  
3    secondary home agent comprises:

4                the subscriber unit generating a random number; and

5                the subscriber unit using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary  
6    home agents.

1    13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering  
2    the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second  
3    secondary home agent comprises:

4                the subscriber unit determining a current date; and

5                the subscriber unit using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home  
6    agents.

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- 1      14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit rank ordering
- 2      the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second
- 3      secondary home agent comprises:
  - 4            the subscriber unit determining a current time; and
  - 5            the subscriber unit using the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home
  - 6      agents.

- 1    15. (Currently Amended) A subscriber unit that operates within a cellular system, the  
2    subscriber unit comprising:  
3         an antenna;  
4         a radio frequency unit coupled to the antenna; and  
5         at least one digital processor coupled to the radio frequency unit that executes software  
6    instructions causing the subscriber unit to:  
7             store addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit prior to a first  
8    registration attempt, wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and a  
9    plurality of secondary home agents;  
10          attempt the first registration with the primary home agent;  
11          failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent;  
12          select a secondary home agent from the the plurality of secondary home agents in an attempt  
13    to balance load among the plurality of secondary home agents; and  
14          attempt registration with the secondary home agent.
- 1    16. (Previously Presented) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein execution of the software  
2    instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:  
3         rank order the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home  
4    agent and a second secondary home agent.
- 1    17. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 16, wherein execution of the software instructions  
2    further causes the subscriber unit to:  
3         attempt registration with the first secondary home agent;  
4         fail to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent; and  
5         attempt registration with the second secondary home agent.
- 1    18. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of  
2    secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home  
3    agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:  
4         generate a random number; and  
5         use the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

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1       19. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of  
2       secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home  
3       agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

4              determine a current date; and

5              use the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

1       20. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein in rank ordering the plurality of  
2       secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home  
3       agent, execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to:

4              determine a current time; and

5              use the current time to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

1       21. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of addresses for the  
2       home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering  
3       the subscriber unit to its subscriber.

1       22. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein the plurality of addresses for the  
2       home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the  
3       air access.

1       23. (Original) The subscriber unit of claim 15, wherein at least some of the plurality of  
2       addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service  
3       provider using over the air access.